

# Grammar Practice

Name ..... Class ..... Date .....

## 12.1 Prepositional Phrases

### Key Information

A group of words that begins with a preposition and ends with a noun or pronoun is called a **prepositional phrase**. The noun or pronoun that follows the preposition is called the **object of the preposition**.

They began their project **with good intentions**. [*Intentions* is the object of the preposition *with*.]

Prepositional phrases can act as adjectives.

Have you ever had a room **with a view**? [*With a view* modifies the noun *room*.]

They can also act as adverbs.

**At noon** they met **in secret**. [*At noon* and *in secret* modify the verb *met*.]

### A. Identifying Prepositional Phrases

Circle the prepositional phrases in the following titles of poems by African poets.

“The Fate of Vultures”

“To Aburnameh at Four”

“Elegy for Oduduwa”

“There Was Thunder Without Rain”

“Waiting for Others”

“Nursery Rhyme After a War”

“To the Wielders of Flags”

“Sunset Over Mparayi”

“By the Long Road”

“Law of the Jungle”

### B. Using Prepositional Phrases

Rewrite the sentences below. Make the word in parentheses the object of a prepositional phrase and insert the phrase into the sentence. Then write whether the phrase is working as an *adjective* or *adverb*.

- The flowers were delivered yesterday afternoon. (wedding) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Alfredo continued to breathe roughly, but he seemed better the next morning. (day) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- The telephone rang seven times. (breakfast) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Although the contestant fidgeted nervously, he was calm when his turn came to answer the question. (soundproof booth) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- The engagement ring was the most expensive one available. (showcase) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 12.2 Appositives and Appositive Phrases

**Key Information**

<p><b>Appositives</b> are placed next to other nouns and pronouns and give extra or identifying information about them.</p> <p>My dog, <b>Ariel</b>, is an Australian shepherd.</p> <p>Appositives of more than one word are called <b>appositive phrases</b>.</p> <p>His fiancée, <b>a civil engineer</b>, was transferred.</p>	<p>An appositive should be set off with commas unless it is necessary to the meaning of the sentence.</p> <p>Toni Morrison’s novel <b>The Bluest Eye</b> has been the topic of such serious discussion. [Since Morrison has written more than one novel, the appositive is necessary to the meaning of the sentence.]</p>
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### A. Identifying Appositives and Appositive Phrases

Underline the appositives and appositive phrases in the following sentences.

1. Meredith decided to major in herpetology, the study of amphibians and reptiles.
2. The San Andreas fault, a fracture in the earth’s crust, is the focus of intense geologic study.
3. The policy was begun by Jimmy Carter, the thirty-ninth president of the United States.
4. The movie *Chariots of Fire* is still one of my favorites.
5. Jay’s friend Charles wants to train to be a pilot.
6. Shakespeare’s play *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* is one of the most recent to be made into a film.

### B. Using Appositives and Appositive Phrases

Rewrite each of the following sentences, adding an appositive or appositive phrase. Use commas where necessary.

1. Chicago can be overwhelming if you are uncomfortable in large metropolitan areas.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Stephen likes to ride horses when he visits his grandparents’ farm.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. His sister won the best actress award.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Many people do not realize that Panama is in the same time zone as New York City.  
\_\_\_\_\_

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# Grammar Practice

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## 12.3 Participles and Participial Phrases

### Key Information

**Participles** are verb forms that can work as adjectives.

*Present participles* end in *-ing*.

The suspect told a **confusing** story.

*Past participles* usually end in *-ed*, but may take other forms.

He ordered **fried** haddock, but the waiter brought him **broiled** scrod.

*Participial phrases* contain a participle and include all complements and modifiers. A participial phrase that begins a sentence is usually followed by a comma.

**Frightened by the horror movie,** Mike and Leroy turned on all the lights in the house.

### A. Identifying Participles and Participial Phrases

Underline the participles and participial phrases in the following sentences. Circle the word each participle or participial phrase modifies.

1. Standing on the corner of Hollywood and Vine, Barbara felt as if she owned the world.
2. The students sitting in the back of the auditorium could not hear the lecturer.
3. Regina, bored nearly to tears, did her best to make small talk with the stranger.
4. The Incas did as Atahualpa, captured by Pizarro, indicated and filled the large room with gold.
5. Believing herself to be destined for the stage, she began to take voice lessons.
6. Clearly infatuated, the audience refused to leave until Makeba sang one more song.
7. All the toys displayed in the shop window attracted the child's attention.
8. The warm weather predicted for this week has not materialized.
9. The baked pork chops were served with stuffing.
10. Waiting in line, the people at the cafeteria grew impatient and hungry.

### B. Using Participial Phrases

For each of the following sentences, fill in the blank with a participial phrase. Use the first word in parentheses to form a participle. Use the second word, and any other words you may need, to complete the phrase.

1. \_\_\_\_\_, the alchemists tried to change ordinary metals into gold and silver. (believe, impossible)
2. Nicolas Flamel, \_\_\_\_\_, was a famous alchemist. (born, France)
3. He spent three years \_\_\_\_\_. (experiment, various substances)
4. On January 17, 1382, \_\_\_\_\_, Flamel added a secret potion to a half pound of molten lead. (claim, success)
5. His wife claimed she saw the lead \_\_\_\_\_. (change, silver)

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## 12.3 Gerunds and Gerund Phrases

### Key Information

Like present participles, **gerunds** are verb forms that end in *-ing*. Unlike participles, however, gerunds act as nouns.

**Thinking** hard, he discovered the answer. [*Thinking* is a participle that modifies the pronoun *he*.]

**Thinking** gives him a headache. [Here, *Thinking* is a gerund that functions as the subject of the sentence.]

A **gerund phrase** includes a gerund and any complements and modifiers.

**Thinking like a criminal** is part of every detective's job.

### A. Identifying Gerunds and Gerund Phrases

Underline the gerunds and gerund phrases in the following sentences. Cross out the participles and participial phrases.

1. Watching the diver perform, Susan made up her mind to practice harder.
2. Watching television has become a national pastime.
3. He had a bad case of insomnia from watching the news.
4. Martha, singing like a professional, stole the show.
5. She said the thing she likes least about her new boyfriend is his singing.
6. Collecting stamps is a popular hobby.
7. By working together, the man's sons repaired his damaged roof in two days.
8. Exercising regularly, Linda had more energy than most of the people around her.
9. The student council position will involve assuming a great deal of responsibility.
10. Exhausted, Ben finally finished writing his paper for history class.

### B. Using Gerunds and Gerund Phrases

Rewrite the following sentences by replacing the italicized words with gerunds or gerund phrases.

1. *To believe* that story is *to believe* in Santa Claus.  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. *To get* there before dinner is easy for him.  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Marissa said that she really likes *to read* and *to write*.  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. *To smoke* is not permitted here.  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. I could not bear *to tell* him the bad news.  
\_\_\_\_\_